Baghdad 18 December 2018 – The World Health Organization (WHO) has received a contribution of €1 million from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation to support physical and mental health rehabilitation services in the Iraqi governorate of Ninewa.

The new contribution will be used to ensure war victims with mental and physical disabilities can access high quality services, and to help build the capacity of health staff working in the areas of physical rehabilitation intervention and case assessment and management.

“WHO appreciates the generous donation from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation; it will certainly contribute to building on the good results achieved by WHO and partners in providing mental and physical rehabilitation services in Mosul,” said Dr Adham R. Ismail, Acting WHO Representative in Iraq.

The military operation to retake Mosul, which took place from October 2016 to July 2017, resulted in a high number of civilian casualties and related mental and physical disabilities. According to national health statistics there are 4493 amputees living in Ninewa and registered with the Mosul Rehabilitation Centre.
There has also been a significant increase in the number of people suffering from mental illnesses and other complications due to stress and conflict-related losses. Almost 2% of the population affected by the conflict face serious mental health problems, with women, children and the elderly among the most vulnerable.

“With support from donors such as the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation major gaps will be addressed with effective and sustainable solutions. It is a collective responsibility to drive all health response components of the recovery and reconstruction phase in retaken areas to success,” said Dr Ismail added.

Related links

WHO supports access to assistive technologies for people with physical disabilities in Mosul

Italy supports rehabilitation services for people with physical disabilities

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